

Appl. No. 10/541419
Amendment and/or Response
to Office action of 8 January 2007

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 2-5 and 7-10 are pending in the application.

Applicant(s) thank(s) the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s), and for accepting the drawing(s).

Claims 2-5 are amended as described below, and also for non-statutory reasons: to correct one or more informalities, remove figure label number(s), and/or to replace European-style claim phraseology with American-style claim language. No new matter is added.

The Office action objects to claims 1-6 for informalities. Claims 1 and 6 are canceled without prejudice. The remaining claims are believed to be free of said informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) and/or §103(a). These rejections are moot as to canceled claims 1 and 6. Claims 2 and 3 are patentable because they now depend from independent claim 4, which is patentable as explained below. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection(s) of claims 2 and 3 is respectfully requested.

The Office action objects to claims 4 and 5 as depending from a rejected base claim, but the Examiner states that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of base and intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this indication of patentable subject matter. Claim 4 is amended to essentially incorporate the features recited in claim 1 from which it depended, and to make it more understandable. Claim 5 depends from patentable claim 4. Accordingly, claims 4 and 5 are now patentable.

New dependent claims 7-10 are added to recite an already-searched feature previously (but no longer) recited in claim 2. No new matter is added.

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In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record; allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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